

YOUNG CARERS WORKING GROUP: SUMMARY OF FIRST MEETING ON 27 JUNE 2006

Present

Peter Stapleton (Chair), Community Care Division, SEHD.
Morag Robertson, Community Care Division, SEHD.
Bas Gough, Community Care Division, SEHD.
Jim Stephen, Children and Families Division, SEED.
Robin McKendrick, Support for Learning Division, SEED.
Helen Happer, Social Work Inspection Agency.
Anne-Marie Knowles, ADES, South Lanarkshire Council.
Ruth Clark, Princess Royal Trust for Carers (PRTC).
Fiona Collie, Carers Scotland.
Louise McDonald, Scottish Young Carer Services Alliance.
Glyn Halksworth, Shared Care Scotland.

Sue Cairns, Children 1st.
John McNeish, Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust.
John Brown, NHS Health Scotland.
Pauline McLaren, Scotland's Commissioner for Children
and Young People.

Apologies:

Jack Ryan, Crossroads Scotland.
Susan Taylor, ADSW, North Lanarkshire Council.
Alison Irvine, ADSW, Perth and Kinross Council.

1. Background and remit

Following the Executive's response to *The Future of Unpaid Care in Scotland* (2006), the group has been asked to:

- provide information and advice when guidance affecting young carers is being updated or new information is being produced to help ensure consistency of messages, reflection of young carers' needs and concerns, and a systematic approach to local young carer support;
- advise on joint working protocols, shared young carer identification, methodologies for young carer identification and referral, and the role and value of peer support and respite care;
- assess existing capacity of local agencies and projects whose primary or major focus is young carer support;
- assess information on young carer services provision, need and requirements for sustainability to inform the Spending Review; and
- assess the possible role and remit of a national young carer forum to facilitate young carer participation and liaise with local projects.

The group approved its remit as a true reflection of the Executive's response.

2. Draft Work Plan

The group agreed a plan to achieve its objectives, setting out actions for six bi-monthly meetings of the group, to be kept under review. First priorities were identified as providing an evidence base to the 2007 Spending Review by the end of 2006, and ensuring young carers' issues are reflected in Integrated Children's Services planning guidance by the end of July.

3. Assessing provision and demand of young carer services

Members looked at the strengths and weaknesses of the principal data sources on respite provision and demand and agreed that:

- Young carer project data and Local Financial Returns would be compared to develop an initial picture of young carer service provision, using other available datasets for checking.
- As the most statistically robust dataset, Scotland's Census 2001 data would be used to model demand for young carer services, using results from small-scale, high quality studies to overcome these data's shortcomings.

- Funding source information for voluntary organisations would be used to quantify its stability and any funding gap, then added to the picture drawn of provision and demand to assess the sustainability of young carer services.
- Although work would focus primarily on young carer support projects, account needed to be taken of mainstream resources that are supporting young carers.

4. Young carer services Guidance

The group has been asked to develop and mainstream, by June 2007, strategic guidance for young carer services to inform local planning and underpin indicators for Integrated Children's Services and Local Improvement Targets.

Members agreed that there is a need to fortify young carers' priorities so they are sustained beyond the life of this group. The group also considered the key messages on young carers that would benefit mainstream guidance, including for:

- Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 Guidance - inclusive statutory support;
- Pastoral Care and 'Safe and Well' – early identification of young carers;
- Integrated Children's Services Planning Guidance (2004);
- Hidden Harm – Next steps: Supporting Children, Working with Parents (2006); and
- Not in Education, Employment or Training: More Choices, More Chances (2006).

Other areas identified for potential guidance included:

- definitions;
- black and minority ethnic young carers' issues;
- young carers' presentation to GPs and healthcare workers;
- indicators; and
- strengthening links at local level with the voluntary sector.

5. Future Meetings

Date in September to be agreed to:

- look at initial analysis of respite provision and demand;
- review available draft Integrated Children's Services Planning Guidance; and
- present background papers on the Hidden Harm and Getting it Right for Every Child agendas, and Change Services Fund data.